



January 6, 2015

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT, in response to the [Calls to Action](#) provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to:

- A. Adopt the "[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)" as a reference framework for Park Board's Reconciliation initiatives;
- B. Work with First Nations people's and other civic bodies to identify, create, and deliver appropriate and actionable staff training on indigenous issues and reconciliation;
- C. Take a 360 degree approach to programming, including in the areas of culture, health, public dialogue, physical activity, and sport in order to increase public knowledge and awareness of reconciliation and to provide support to indigenous peoples including children, youth, Elders and families;
- D. Continue Park Board's precedent-setting intergovernmental approach to the future stewardship of Stanley Park and other relevant lands;
- E. Review the donation of monuments, memorials, and public art processes and policies to ensure integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices;
- F. Review archeological protocols to ensure that "Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site" or soil disturbance of a midden site takes place on park lands;
- G. Acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights; that preservation, revitalization and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities;
- H. Review partner and business contracts, relationships and procurement policies for alignment with [TRC Calls to Action](#);
- I. Establish and fund as a priority a program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative community-engaged projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process;
- J. Review event permitting and sports hosting opportunities to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected and that, if appropriate to the scale of the event, that local Indigenous communities are engaged;
- K. Maintain current policy of no charge for changing a name on the OneCard, especially in relation to Indigenous people reclaiming names changed by the residential school system.

## **BACKGROUND**

On June 23, 2015, Vancouver City Council passed a motion directing staff to provide recommendations on how to move forward on actions recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). City staff will be reporting to Council on January 18, 2016.

On June 29, 2015, the Urban Aboriginal Committee passed a motion requesting the Park Board undertake a review of the TRC Calls to Action.

On July 20, 2015, the Vancouver Park Board passed a motion directing staff to report back with recommendations on how to move forward on actions recommended by the TRC that are within the Park Board's jurisdiction.

## **RESPONSE**

The TRC issued 94 calls to action in its report. Staff have completed an initial review of the Actions and identified 12 that call upon either all levels of government or specifically municipal governments. Of these 12, 8 are within the jurisdiction or area of influence of the Park Board (identified in Appendix A). The 4 additional Actions at the municipal level fall to other City bodies to address. Staff also found an additional 20 Actions over which the Park Board may have related influence or opportunity. The recommendations in this report identify 11 strategies which address the principles contained in a total of 28 of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action (see Appendix A).

The TRC's "Calls to Action" document also identifies two major areas of action, Legacy and Reconciliation. These two areas are further structured into 22 themes. Park Board strategies address 14 of the themes, several of which hold special resonance including: Language and Culture; Commemoration; Professional Development and Training for Public Servants; Education for Reconciliation; Youth Programs; and Sports and Reconciliation.

The review also confirmed that some of the Park Board's current work already demonstrates leadership in areas addressed by the TRC calls for action, including:

### **Language, Culture and Commemoration**

- Stanley Park Plan - Park Board Commissioners join the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh to celebrate the initiation of a new relationship to develop the vision and long-term plan for the stewardship of Stanley Park;
- "Shore-to-Shore" sculpture at Brockton Point - a collaboration with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh that commemorates indigenous history at the site; the project incorporated principles of First Nations' language sovereignty in the development of the artwork's information panel;
- TRACKS Symposium - a Park Board partnership with the Roundhouse Association and Vancouver Moving Theatre that brought together indigenous, settler, and immigrant artists, thinkers, and educators who create community-engaged art; podcasts and written documentation are currently in production to extend the reach of this seminal event;
- "Songs for Reconciliation" - an Artists in Communities project that invited community members to art-making workshops aimed at sharing cultural knowledge and truths about residential school history;

### **Professional Development and Training for Public Servants**

A number of staff training initiatives have been provided, including:

- a workshop for Planning staff delivered by Brad Marsden, a Residential School Counselor and Facilitator;
- a high-level briefing to Operations and Planning managers on First Nations history and archeological considerations;
- the TRACKS Symposium attended by staff from Arts, Culture and Engagement (ACE), Planning, and Recreation; an event developed by ACE staff working with an Advisory Team;

### **Education for Reconciliation**

- Reconciliation in Action (RIA): “Drive the Change” - hosted on September 29, 2015, by Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement (ALIVE) Society, Britannia Community Services Centre Society, and Ray-Cam Community Association; brought community partners together to demonstrate how reconciliation can become a reality beginning at the neighbourhood-level;
- Hastings Community Centre is planning a similar RIA event, which will include the launch of a Reconciliation art project supported by Park Board’s Neighbourhood Matching Fund;

### **Youth Programs**

- RISE (Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment), an evolution of ALIVE's Gen7 Aboriginal Youth Role Model Program, is currently delivered in a number of Community Centres as a partnership between ALIVE, Community Centre Associations, and the Park Board;
- MoreSports has been supporting access to sports activities for a broad diversity of young people including Aboriginal children and youth;
- Park Board’s Orange Shirt Day recognition on September 30, 2015, raised awareness that “every child matters.”

To date, the Vancouver Park Board has:

- *initiated reconciliation actions*, such as the Park Board Commissioners meeting with the leadership of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations regarding the future stewardship of Stanley Park, and the Park Board partnership that delivered the national symposium for indigenous and non-indigenous artists;
- *responded to indigenous initiatives*, such as the “Shore to Shore” artwork donation and the partnership with ALIVE and Association partners to position youth leaders in community centres; and
- *taken advantage of opportunities* that presented themselves, such as the training offered through the City’s EEO Office.

## SUMMARY

With the completion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in 2015, and the publication of their report outlining the 94 [“Calls to Action”](#), a national framework is now available for reconciliation. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has made a commitment to move forward on the actions recommended by the TRC that are within Park Board’s jurisdiction.

First stage reviews indicate that the Park Board is already supporting substantial work that responds to the themes and actions identified by the TRC. With the continuation of these successful strategies and partnerships, along with a review of outcomes and learnings achieved to date, the Park Board has an opportunity to lead with a comprehensive and ambitious plan for moving forward.

The recommendations presented in this report reflect a broad inclusive approach in responding to the TRC’s “Calls to Action” (see Appendix A) and mark the next phase of the journey embarked upon under the direction of the Board, with the leadership of the General Manager, in response to the diverse communities we serve.

With Board approval, staff will embark on further analysis to ensure an effective and coordinated structuring of the Park Board’s ongoing response, accelerate work on new or seminal practices, and work toward the widening and deepening of the Park Board’s involvement and influence in moving the objectives of the TRC into action.

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Alignment of Park Board Recommendations to the TRC’s “Calls to Action”

<p><b>Park Board Recommendation</b></p> <p>THAT, in response to the recommendations and calls to action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada (TRC), the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to:</p>	<p><b>TRC’s Calls to Action: SECTION/AREA, Theme and Recommendation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>notes in italics are explanatory additions to the original TRC text</i></li> <li>- <b>the 8 Calls to Action (of the 12 directed to the municipal level), that are within the jurisdiction or area of influence of the Park Board are noted in red</b></li> <li>- the remaining 20 Calls to Action noted are those over which the Park Board may have related influence or opportunity</li> <li>- greyed-out text indicates sections of actions that are not related to the Park Board response but have been included for context</li> </ul>
<p>A. Adopt the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" as a reference framework for park Board’s Reconciliation initiatives</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Canadian Governments and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People</b></p> <p><b>43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.</b></p>
<p>B. Work with First Nations people’s and other civic bodies to identify, create, and deliver appropriate and actionable staff training on indigenous issues and reconciliation</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Professional Development And Training For Public Servants</b></p> <p><b>57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.</b></p>
<p>C. Take a 360 degree approach to programming, including in the areas of culture, health, public dialogue, physical activity, and sport in order to increase public knowledge and awareness of reconciliation and to provide support to indigenous peoples including children, youth, Elders and families</p>	<p><b>LEGACY - Child Welfare</b></p> <p><b>3. We call upon all levels of government to fully implement Jordan’s Principle.</b></p> <p><i>Jordan’s Principle is a child first principle named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. Jordan was a First Nations child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. Born with complex medical needs, Jordan spent more than two years unnecessarily in hospital while the Province of Manitoba and the Federal government argued over who should pay for his at home care. Jordan died in hospital at the age of five years old, never having spent a day in a family home.</i></p> <p><i>Payment disputes within and between Federal and Provincial governments over services for First Nations children are not uncommon. First Nations children are frequently left waiting for services they desperately need, or are denied services that are available to other children. This includes services in</i></p>

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*education, health, childcare, recreation, and culture and language. Jordan's Principle calls on the government of first contact to pay for the services and seek reimbursement later so the child does not get tragically caught in the middle of government red tape.*

*It was unanimously passed in the House of Commons in 2007" quote from First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, September 14, 2015: <http://www.fncairingsociety.com/jordans-principle>*

5. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate parenting programs for Aboriginal families.

**LEGACY - Child Welfare**

7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.
12. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families.

**RECONCILIATION - Youth Programs**

66. We call upon the federal government to establish multiyear funding for community-based youth organizations to deliver programs on reconciliation, and establish a national network to share information and best practices.

**LEGACY - Justice**

*(community centre settings provide programs and opportunities directly contributing to activities which refocus at-risk behaviors and build healthy individuals and communities)*

33. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments to recognize as a high priority the need to address and prevent Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), and to develop, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, FASD preventive programs that can be delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.
  34. We call upon the governments of Canada, the provinces, and territories to undertake reforms to the criminal justice system to better address the needs of offenders with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), including:
    - i. Providing increased community resources and powers for courts to ensure that FASD is properly diagnosed, and that appropriate community supports are in place for those with FASD.
    - ii. Enacting statutory exemptions from mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offenders affected by FASD.
    - iii. Providing community, correctional, and parole resources to maximize the ability of people with FASD to live in the community.
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- iv. Adopting appropriate evaluation mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of such programs and ensure community safety.

40. We call on all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal people, to create adequately funded and accessible Aboriginal-specific victim programs and services with appropriate evaluation mechanisms.

**RECONCILIATION - Settlement Agreement Parties and The United Nations Declaration On The Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

*(community centre settings provide programs and opportunities directly contributing to public understanding and dialogue)*

48. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement, and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

- i. Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ii. Respecting Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- iii. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- iv. Issuing a statement no later than March 31, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**LEGACY - Health**

*(community centres provide programs and opportunities directly contributing to preventative health measures)*

23. We call upon all levels of government to:

- i. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care *(recreation)* field.
- ii. Ensure the retention of Aboriginal health-care *(recreation)* providers in Aboriginal communities.
- iii. Provide cultural competency training for all healthcare *(recreation program leaders)* professionals.

**RECONCILIATION - Commemoration**

80. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish *(celebrate)*, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and

	<p>communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.</p> <p><b>RECONCILIATION - Sports and Reconciliation</b></p> <p>87. We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.</p> <p>88. We call upon all levels of government to take action to ensure long-term Aboriginal athlete development and growth, and continued support for the North American Indigenous Games, including funding to host the games and for provincial and territorial team preparation and travel.</p> <p>89. We call upon the federal government to amend the Physical Activity and Sport Act to support reconciliation by ensuring that policies to promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and build capacity in the Canadian sport system, are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.</p> <p>90. We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.</li><li>ii. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.</li><li>iii. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.</li><li>iv. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.</li></ul>
<p>D. Continue Park Board's precedent-setting intergovernmental approach to the future stewardship of Stanley Park and other relevant lands</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Canadian Governments and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People</b></p> <p>44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>



<p>E. Review the Donation of Monuments, Memorial and Public Art processes and policies to ensure integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Commemoration</b></p> <p>79. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organizations, and the arts community, to develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration. This would include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Amending the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat</li><li>ii. Revising the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada’s national heritage and history.</li><li>iii. Developing and implementing a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada’s history.</li></ul> <p><b>RECONCILIATION - Museums and Archives</b></p> <p><i>(whereas this is a call for federal funding, the municipal role is focussed on planning for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.)</i></p> <p>68. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, and the Canadian Museums Association to mark the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation in 2017 by establishing a dedicated national funding program for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation</p>
<p>F. Review archeological protocols to ensure that "Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site" or soil disturbance of a midden site takes place on park lands</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Missing Children and Burial Information</b></p> <p><i>(no Residential Schools were located in Vancouver proper which reduces probability of Residential School cemeteries, however the principles recommended are appropriate to other Indigenous peoples’ burial sites.)</i></p> <p>75. We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school (<i>indigenous peoples’</i>) cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.</p> <p>76. We call upon the parties engaged in the work of documenting, maintaining, commemorating, and protecting residential school (<i>indigenous peoples’</i>) cemeteries to adopt strategies in accordance with the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. The Aboriginal community most affected shall lead the development of such strategies.</li><li>ii. Information shall be sought from residential school Survivors and other Knowledge Keepers in the</li></ul>

	<p>development of such strategies.</p> <p>iii. Aboriginal protocols shall be respected before any potentially invasive technical inspection and investigation of a cemetery site.</p>
<p>G. Acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights; that preservation, revitalization and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities</p>	<p><b>LEGACY - Language &amp; Culture</b></p> <p>13. We call upon the federal government to acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.</p> <p>14. We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.</li> <li>ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.</li> <li>iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.</li> <li>iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.</li> <li>v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.</li> </ul>
<p>H. Review partner and business contracts, relationships and procurement policies for alignment with TRC Calls to Action</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Business and Reconciliation</b></p> <p>92. We call upon the corporate sector in Canada to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This would include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Commit to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects.</li> <li>ii. Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.</li> <li>iii. Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.</li> </ul>

<p>I. Establish and fund as a priority a program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative community-engaged projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Commemoration</b></p> <p>83. We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.</p>
<p>J. Review event permitting and sports hosting opportunities to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected and that, in if appropriate to the scale of the event, that local Indigenous communities are engaged</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Sports and Reconciliation</b></p> <p>91. We call upon the officials and host countries of international sporting events such as the Olympics, Pan Am, and Commonwealth games to ensure that Indigenous peoples' territorial protocols are respected, and local Indigenous communities are engaged in all aspects of planning and participating in such events.</p>
<p>K. Maintain current policy of no charge for changing a name on the One Card and especially in relation to Indigenous people reclaiming names changed by the residential school system</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION - Language &amp; Culture</b></p> <p>17. We call upon all levels of government to enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system by waiving administrative costs for a period of five years for the name-change process and the revision of official identity documents, such as birth certificates, passports, driver's licenses, health cards, status cards, and social insurance numbers.</p>